(c) The actual expenditure incurred by PCRA during the last three years is as under:

Year	Expenditure (in Rs. crores)
2006-07	21.02
2007-08	20.89
2008-09	57.36

Distribution of LPG by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam

971. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that customer services of the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, which is Indian Oil's distributor of LPG cylinders in Almora and Ranikhet, are pathetic and its gas supply is irregular;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry or survey would be conducted in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would allow more LPG distributors by other OMCs in Almora and Ranikhet, so that consumers are given a choice and spared from monopolistic practices of Indian Oil and its distributors; and

(d) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that they have not received any complaint of pathetic customer services and irregular gas supply by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) in Almora and Ranikhet District of Uttarakhand.

Inspection of the distributors are carried out as per norms to monitor its functioning. Mechanism is in place for redressal of customers' grievances at different levels and appropriate corrective action is taken on feedbacks received.

Presently, various means for lodging complaints are available with the customers viz., complaint register kept at the distributorship, through website of IOC, through mail, customer / zonal service cell as also through toll free number 18002333555 to the complaint call centers of the IOC.

These complaints are monitored and appropriate remedial action are taken by IOC in a time bound manner.

(c) and (d) As on 01.06.2009, public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 168 LPG distributorships in the State of Uttrakhand, including four in Almora and one in Ranikhet.

IOC has also reported that Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up of one more new LPG distributorship in Almora has already been issued to KMVN to cater to the LPG requirements of the area. However, in the case of Ranikhet, a new LPG distributorship is not feasible at present as per norms in vogue.

Shortage of cooking gas in Kerala

972. PROF. P. J.KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of cooking gas supply in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the monthly requirement of cooking gas in that State;

(d) the present supply, per month; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no shortage of LPG in the State of Kerala and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Based on actual demand figure for last three months, average monthly demand of LPG in Kerala is 36.76 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) and at present this demand is being fully met.

Deregulation of petrol and diesel prices

973. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to deregulate the prices of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the deregulation of prices of petroleum products would have any effect on the marketing of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, to what extent deregulation of prices of petroleum products would be in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The Government abolished the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1st April 2002, and decided that pricing of all petroleum products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be market-determined. In order to provide PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG at affordable prices, the Government formulated subsidy schemes, which are in operation since April 2002.

To protect the consumer and the economy from the volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices, Government is, however, modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene.

Gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan

974. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran and Pakistan have signed an agreement to lay a gas pipeline for taking Iranian gas to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement included an article that would allow India to join the project at an appropriate time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?